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September 8, 2004

"An Oversight Hearing on Contracting Abuses in Iraq"

Friday, September 10, 2004 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Dirksen 562

In the absence of meaningful oversight by Republicans in Congress, the Democratic Policy Committee (DPC) will hold the third in a series of DPC hearings on September 10, 2004 to investigate contracting abuses in Iraq. Witnesses at the hearing will provide first-hand accounts of improper conduct by Halliburton, which is the largest recipient of government contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and detail the Pentagon's questionable practices in awarding, administering, and overseeing contracts in Iraq.

Witnesses

Sheryl Tappan has more than 12 years of experience managing and writing proposals for government contracts, including nearly six years at Bechtel Corporation. She is the author of *Shock and Awe in Fort* Worth: How the U.S. Army Rigged the "Free and Open Competition" to Replace Halliburton's Sole-Source Oil Field Contract in Iraq. Ms. Tappan will testify that the Pentagon used an inappropriate bidding process to award Halliburton an oil services contract in March 2003. She will also discuss how the alleged overcharging by Halliburton for delivering fuel to Iraq is just the "tip of the iceberg" of federal contracting waste and abuse.

Marie DeYoung worked as a contract specialist for Halliburton/KBR at Camp Udairi in Kuwait. She will offer a first-hand account of specific instances of overcharging by Halliburton that have not been previously made public and testify about systemic problems with Halliburton's contract management under its LOGCAP contract.

Steve Schooner is professor of law and Co-Director of the Government Procurement Law Program at George Washington University Law School. He will address the Pentagon's performance in managing and overseeing contracts in Iraq.

Larry Allen is Executive Vice President for the Coalition for Government Procurement, a Washingtonbased group that represents government contractors. Mr. Allen will discuss the suspension of contractors from federal contracts and the challenges that contractors often face in performing contracts, especially when the work is done in war zones.

Danielle Brian is Executive Director of the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), a government watchdog group that recently called for Halliburton's suspension from future federal contracts.